

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075637
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:HACOCCHRAN
APPROVED BY EA:EHEGINBOTHAM
EB:WBARRACLOUGH
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TREAS:LWIDMAN
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NSC:JRENNER(SUBS)
S/S SGOLDSMITH

-----112460 240115Z /70

O R 240031Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075637

EXDIS GENEVA FOR USMTN PARIS FOR USOECD BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:ETRD, EFIN, JA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOJ EXPORT RESTRAINTS

REF: TOKYO 4472

1. USG LOOKS UPON MIYAZAWA'S CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIC
MINISTER BUTTON AS PRIVATE AND INFORMAL, NOT AS OFFICIAL
APPROACH FROM GOJ. MINISTER BUTTON SHOULD ADVISE MIYAZAWA
IN A SIMILAR INFORMAL AND PRIVATE MANNER THAT USG IS NOT
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IN POSITION TO ENGAGE IN ANY OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH
GOJ ON THE QUESTION OF EXPORT RESTRAINTS.

2. BUTTON SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE GOJ IS AWARE OF THE GENERAL U.S. POSITION THAT

SUCH RESTRAINTS DO NOT DEAL WITH UNDERLYING STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS AND THAT EXPORT RESTRAINTS BY THEIR VERY NATURE DEPRIVE CONSUMERS OF A FULL RANGE OF CHOICE AND CAN CONTRIBUTE TO INFLATION IN IMPORTERS' MARKETS.

EXPORT RESTRAINTS MAY ALSO RAISE CERTAIN ANTI-TRUST PROBLEMS.

-- WE UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTIES FACING THE GOJ. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT POLICIES WHICH STIMULATE GROWTH AND FACILITATE IMPORTS, A MEANINGFUL MTN OFFER, TOGETHER WITH SUCH POLICIES AS INCREASING AND UNTYING FOREIGN AID, WOULD HELP REDUCE PRESSURE ON THE GOJ. THESE ARE SOME OF THE MEASURES WE AGREED ON IN THE STRAUSS-USHIBA STATEMENT.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT SENIOR GOJ LEADERS SUCH AS THE PRIME MINISTER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL MIYAZAWA UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS. BUT JAPAN'S RECENT POSITIONS IN THE MTN (VERY POOR OFFER, EXCLUSIONS OF PRODUCTS OF MAJOR EXPORT INTEREST TO THE U.S.) AND JAPAN'S EFFORTS TO INHIBIT EXPANSION OF CIVIL AVIATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN INDICATE THAT JAPANESE POLICIES STILL HAVE A PROTECTIONIST COLORING.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT JAPAN'S MONTHLY SURPLUS NUMBERS
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WILL LOOK WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER. WE NEED TO BE CONFIDENT AND UPBEAT DURING THIS PERIOD AND DEVOTE FULLEST ATTENTION TO IMPLEMENTING THE STRAUSS-USHIBA AGREEMENT, A PROCESS SO SUCCESSFULLY BEGUN BY MR. IKEDA AND HIS IMPORT PROMOTION MISSION.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT OF EXPORT RESTRAINTS. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE075637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HACOCHHRAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0515
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxdz.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47c9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 TOKYO 4472
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3211125
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE GOJ EXPORT RESTRAINTS
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47c9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014